

MINUTES

LOWER LOUP NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

November 16, 2017

Ord, Nebraska

The November meeting of the Board of Directors of the Lower Loup Natural Resources District was held at the Headquarters Office, 2620 Airport Drive, Ord, Nebraska, on November 16, 2017. Chairman Citta called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Directors in attendance

James C. Adams
Darwin B. Anderson
Robert L. Bauer
Joseph L. Citta, Jr., Chairman
Virgil W. Gellermann
Randy Kauk
Matt R. Lukasiewicz
Alan D. Petersen
Dean G. Thede

Rollie D. Amsberry, Treasurer
Timothy E. Bartak
Beth Boesch
Jim Eschliman, Vice Chairman
N. Richard Hadenfeldt
Gary A. Kruse
James C. Nelson
Gerald Smith
Henry J. Thoene, Secretary

Director absent

Chad J. Podolak

Staff in attendance

Leon "Butch" Koehlmoos, General Manager
Irene F. Kreifels, Administrative Assistant
Kim A. Lyons, Financial Secretary
Ann Freeman, Water Programs Secretary
Richard L. Woollen, District Forester

Russell G. Callan, Assistant General Manager
Tylr Naprstek, Water Modeling Coordinator
Larry D. Schultz, I&E Coordinator
LeeAnn Smith, Water Programs Assistant
Dell Harris, Water Resources Specialist

Guests in attendance

Bryce Bauer, RC, NRCS, Ord
Larry Mohrman, Columbus
Dustin Wilcox, NARD

Mike Wells, Twin Loups Irrig. Dist., Scotia
Jeff Mullinix, Columbus
John Engel, HDR

NOTICE OF OPEN MEETING LAW POSTING

Chairman Citta referred those in attendance to the open meeting law information posted in the Board room.

VERIFICATION OF MEETING NOTICE AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Chairman Citta asked for verification of the meeting notice. General Manager Leon “Butch” Koehlmoos verified that the meeting notices were properly published in all newspapers and that the meeting notice was also posted at the NRD Headquarters office in Ord, the NRD web site, and the eight field office locations. Koehlmoos said there were no modifications to the agenda.

EXCUSED ABSENCES AND ROLL CALL

Koehlmoos reported that Chad Podolak had contacted Headquarters and asked to be excused from the Board meeting.

Roll Call – Directors present: Adams, Amsberry, Anderson, Bartak, Bauer, Boesch, Citta, Eschliman, Gellermann, Hadenfeldt, Kauk, Kruse, Lukasiewicz, Nelson, Petersen, Smith, Thede, Thoene. Director absent: Podolak.

Smith motioned, seconded by Adams, to excuse Podolak from the meeting. Motion carried by roll call vote, all present voting yes.

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Chairman Citta asked for corrections and/or additions to the October 26, 2017, Board meeting minutes. Lukasiewicz mentioned a change to the St. Paul trail location was needed, indicating the application was for the east side of town, but was presented for the west side of town.

Eschliman motioned, seconded by Kauk, to approve the October 26, 2017, Board meeting minutes as corrected. Motion carried by roll call vote, all present voting yes.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Chairman Citta directed the Board’s attention to the Treasurer’s Report as published in the regular and supplemental agendas.

Koehlmoos highlighted an expenditure for seed that was bought from Cade Harris, Dell’s son, and explained there was a bidding process and he was the lowest bid received. He also highlighted expenditures to HDR for the Lillian Creek project, JEO for retainage for the South Loup Project and Hazard Mitigation Plan, and Cornerstone mapping was also discussed for the second half of payment for infrared photos.

Thoene motioned, seconded by Gellermann, to approve the November 2017, Treasurer's Report and pay all bills. Motion carried by roll call vote, all present voting yes.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

SUBDISTRICTS 4 & 7 VACANCIES/APPOINTMENTS

Citta announced that voting would be done by secret ballot for Director appointments in Subdistricts 4 & 7.

Ballots were cast for the three Subdistrict 4 candidates -- Don Berggren, Brad Staab, and Rick Vlach. After votes were tallied by Larry Schultz and Irene Kreifels, a secret ballot was cast between the two candidates receiving the most votes -- Brad Staab and Rick Vlach. After votes were tallied, Citta announced that Rick Vlach had received the most votes.

Boesch motioned, seconded by Anderson, to appoint Rick Vlach as the new Subdistrict 4 Board member, with his term to begin at the December Board meeting. Motion carried by roll call vote, all present voting yes.

Secret ballots were cast for the three Subdistrict 7 candidates -- Larry Mohrman, Jeff Mullinix, and Jon Dockhorn. After votes were tallied, a secret ballot was cast between the two candidates receiving the most votes -- Larry Mohrman and Jeff Mullinix. After votes were again tallied, Citta announced that Larry Mohrman had received the most votes.

Thoene motioned, seconded by Gellermann, to appoint Larry Mohrman as the new Subdistrict 7 Board member, with his term to begin at the December Board meeting. Motion carried by roll call vote, all present voting yes.

Citta invited all candidates to stay for the rest of the meeting. Boesch thanked all applicants for their interest and explained that new members would need to file and run during the next election and anyone else wanting to serve on the Board was welcome to run at that time, as well.

LOWER PLATTE RIVER BASIN COALITION PLAN

John Engel with HDR gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Lower Platte River Basin Coalition Plan. Engel explained that it was a joint planning effort between seven natural resources districts, the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources and the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts. He highlighted the various goals of the plan, as well as the activities being performed to effectively develop the plan. Based on the plan over the next five years, there is determined to be 18,807 acre-feet of allowable development under the plan. Koehlmoos said that he felt that was a conservative number to utilize. Discussion was held on what was new development and depletion. After reviewing the plan, Engel stated that an interlocal agreement would be reviewed and signed by each NRD participating in the plan.

Thoene asked about banking allowable acres that aren't used in a calendar year and it was explained that the acre-feet allotment would carry over from year to year and there would be certain activities that would add to the allowable acre-feet allotment.

Smith asked if the water was the 'property' of the NRD that it is in now, and could it be transferred on downstream. Engel answered that the allowable development was to be managed and maintained by each individual NRD.

Gellermann asked who would be making the decision where the water goes in the event of a long-term drought and the basins are short of water. Engel answered that the plan was built around the best available information and averages, accounting for shortages of water.

Hadenfeldt motioned, seconded by Kruse, to approve the interlocal agreement for the Lower Platte River Basin Coalition Plan and authorize the General Manager's signature. Motion carried by roll call vote. Directors present voting yes: Adams, Amsberry, Anderson, Bartak, Bauer, Boesch, Citta, Eschliman, Gellermann, Hadenfeldt, Kauk, Kruse, Lukasiewicz, Nelson, Petersen, Thede, and Thoene. Director voting no: Smith. Director absent: Podolak.

Koehlmoos thanked John Engel and Dustin Wilcox for their time in putting the plan together and coordinating meetings.

FORESTER'S REPORT

District Forester Rich Woollen reported that Nebraska hosted the Great Plains Society of American Foresters meeting in Valentine recently. He reported that during the meeting they had a first-hand look at various forestry achievements happening in Nebraska. Woollen reported that seedling orders for conservation trees had begun. Woollen presented the Board with a brochure of the different species available and pricing for each. He informed the Board that trees could be ordered from the brochure, as well as online. He stated that last year was the first year a new web-based tree program was used to track tree orders and manage inventory. He said the program went well and will be used again this year.

NRCS REPORT

Bryce Bauer, Resource Conservationist in Ord, reported that NRCS staff was working to complete CSP renewals by December 16th and to get about 350 CSP payments sent. He informed the Board that NRCS would be merging with USDA at a national level, but nothing would be changing locally. Bauer said EQIP sign-up deadline for 2018 money would be November 17th. He also stated that DEQ was starting to consider smaller feedlots of under 1,000 animal units, and they had received quite a few EQIP requests for small containment facilities.

INFORMATION AND EDUCATION REPORT

Hazard Mitigation Plan

Information & Education Coordinator Larry Schultz reported that there are still eight entities that need to adopt the Hazard Mitigation Plan that will take effect in January.

2018 NARD Legislative Conference

Schultz informed the Board that the 2018 Legislative Conference would be held January 23rd and 24th at the Embassy Suites in Lincoln and passed around a sign-up sheet for Directors wishing to attend.

Risk Communication

Schultz informed the Board that he had attended a two-day Risk Communication seminar in Hastings presented by JEO, sponsored by DEQ, and hosted by the Little Blue NRD. During the conference he learned different approaches to handling conflicts, including holding an open house public hearing. He said Lower Elkhorn NRD would be trying the new procedure on November 21st on their use of the UNL drought monitor as part of their Groundwater Management Plan.

Schultz also presented the Board with the winter *In The Loup* newsletter and reported that he expected it to be mailed by the end of the week. He stated the next issue was expected to be ready in January.

BROKEN BOW LEVEE PROJECT

Russ Callan, Assistant General Manager, presented the Board with a map highlighting the upcoming Broken Bow levee project that is expected to be discussed at the December Programs/Projects Committee meeting. He said that the recent flooding events in the area had not initiated the project.

ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Callan reported that willows had been removed from the drainage in the Duncan East and Lost Creek areas. He said Platte County would be removing overgrowth of trees out of the ditches.

Naprstek showed photos of the work completed on the Davis Creek boat ramp, and the entry sign for Pibel Lake. He said the design for the entry sign at Davis Creek was the same.

VARIANCE COMMITTEE

Thoene reported that Jason Stark met with the Variance Committee earlier in the day to discuss a variance to transfer 58 acres from the South Loup Basin near Pleasanton to the Mud Creek Basin near Hazard. Thoene said there was a lot of discussion about the proposed transfer and a decision on the variance would be made next month.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Treasurer's Report Approval Policy

Koehlmoos stated he did not have any new information to report on the Treasurer's Report Approval Policy discussed in October. He said the issue was not brought up at the recent Managers meeting. He stated that approval of the Treasurer's Report could remain as it is now, or the new policy could be adopted as a precaution.

Kruse motioned, seconded by Anderson, to add a statement to the policy on the Treasurer's Report Approval Policy. Motion carried by roll call vote. Directors voting yes: Adams, Amsberry, Anderson, Bartak, Bauer, Citta, Gellermann, Hadenfeldt, Kauk, Kruse, Lukasiewicz, Nelson, Petersen, Thede, and Thoene. Directors voting no: Boesch, Eschliman, and Smith. Director absent: Podolak.

December Meeting/Annual Awards Dinner Date Change

Koehlmoos reported that the Vet's Club would be available on December 28th for the annual awards dinner and said that the Board would need to vote on the new date.

Smith motioned, seconded by Boesch, to change the awards dinner to December 28th and set the time for the regular Board meeting to 3:30 p.m. Motion carried by roll call vote, all present voting yes.

Litigation Update

Koehlmoos reported that, on November 8th, the judge had ruled in favor of the Lower Loup NRD in the Koch case. It was reported that Koch has thirty days to appeal the judge's decision. Updates will be passed on as additional news develops.

New Hires

Koehlmoos said interviews were conducted for the Conservation Technician position at Headquarters. He said someone would be hired by December.

Non-action Reports

No non-action reports.

NARD REPORT

Director's Report

Eschliman reported that the NARD Board met in Beatrice. His report included that the Risk Pool and Budget Committees met, the auction/raffle went well, the Foundation was looking for volunteers for the Envirothon, and the June Basin tour would be in the Loup Basin.

NRC REPORT

Commissioner's Report

Hadenfeldt reported that the NRC would hold a meeting on the 21st to score the projects received. He said there were 12 large projects and 8 small projects.

RC&D REPORTS

Loup Basin

Thoene stated that their next meeting would be held on the 21st.

PrairieLand

Gellermann said PrairieLand was trying to get a meeting together. He said they will have to meet in December or they would be eligible to lose their non-profit status.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / FUTURE MEETING TOPICS

No announcements

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Board, Chairman Citta declared the meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

Roster for attendance of this meeting and tally of votes cast on motions at this meeting are being filed with the official minutes of this meeting at the Lower Loup Natural Resources District's Headquarters Office, 2620 Airport Drive, Ord, Nebraska. Publication notification of this meeting was made via a newspaper in each county within the District. The next Board of Directors meeting will be held Thursday, December 28, 2017, at 3:30 p.m., at the Headquarters Office in Ord, Nebraska.

Henry J. Thoene
Secretary